

Message Text

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54

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 L-03 PM-07 SAM-01

NSC-07 NSCE-00 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 DRC-01 H-03 EB-11 CG-00 DOTE-00 INRE-00 MC-02

AID-20 ACDA-19 /149 W

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O P 261410Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4546

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1158

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

COMMILSEALIFTCOMD PRIORITY

MARAD WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5063

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, CGEN, MASS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: LASH ESPANA: GOG DECISION TO RELEASE SHIP BUT NOT
AMMUNITION

REF: A. STATE 162479

B. STATE 162474

C. ATHENS 4968

D. STATE 161361

E. STATE 160275

F. ISTANBUL 2031

G. STATE 160203

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1. AS PROMISED PARA 3 REF C, EMBASSY APPROACHED MIGLIARESSIS DIRECTOR, THIRD DIRECTORATE, FONOFF, JULY 25 IN ORDER AGAIN TO PRESS FOR RELEASE OF LASH ESPANA AS WELL AS RELEASE OF AMMUNITION, IF FEASIBLE. MIGLIARESSIS EVIDENTLY HAD DECIDED OVERNIGHT THAT PROBLEM WAS WITH TURKEY RATHER THAN U.S., AND REFERRED EMBOFF TO METAXAS, DIRECTOR, SECOND POLITICAL DIRECTORATE (TURKEY/CYPRUS). METAXAS, IN TURN, REFERRED PROBLEM TO GEORGIOU WHO ASSUMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR TURKEY/CYPRUS RELATIONS WHEN METAXAS DEPARTED FOR GENEVA SAME DAY.

2. GEORGIOU LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY TO PROBLEM, VENTURED PERSONAL OPINION THAT SHIP MIGHT BE RELEASED AND UNDERTOOK TO PURSUE MATTER WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES (I.E. HELLENIC NAVY AND SHAF). HE FORESAW NO POSSIBILITY FOR RELEASING AMMUNITION AT THIS TIME.

3. MR. RYAN, MARITIME ATTACHE LONDON, MADE CONTACT WITH LOCAL AGENTS, INTERESTED U.S. OFFICIALS AND THEN DISCUSSED PROBLEM OF LASH ESPANA WITH HARBOR AND HELLENIC NAVAL AUTHORITIES, WHO INDICATED MATTER RESTED WITH SHAF.

4. ON JULY 26 EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT PROBLEM WITH COL. ROUSSOS, SHAF FOREIGN LIAISON OFFICER. ROUSSOS' REACTION PREDICTABLY WAS THAT NO CHANCE FOR RELEASE OF AMMUNITION BUT THAT HE FELT SHIP MIGHT BE RELEASED. AFTER BEING IN CONTACT WITH ACTION OFFICERS IN SHAF, ROUSSOS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SHIP WOULD BE RELEASED THAT DAY AND THAT HE WOULD SO INFORM FONOFF. GEORGIOU SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICIALLY THAT SHIP MIGHT PROCEED BUT THAT AMMUNITION WOULD REMAIN.

5. IN CIRCUMSTANCES PREVAILING ON AND AROUND CYPRUS, WE DO NOT FIND IT UNREASONABLE THAT GREEK AUTHORITIES DO NOT WISH TO PERMIT LARGE QUANTITY OF AMMUNITION TO PROCEED TO TURKEY AT THIS TIME. IT IS, AFTER ALL, PRECISELY THIS KIND OF AMMUNITION WHICH HAS BEEN USED ON CYPRUS AND WHICH CONTINUES TO BE SENT TO CYPRUS BY TURKISH MILITARY AUTHORITIES. WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO KEEP GREEK AUTHORITIES AWARE OF OUR INTEREST IN THE RELEASE OF THE AMMUNITION. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT ANYTHING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED TOWARD ITS RELEASE UNTIL SITUATION ON AND AROUND CYPRUS STABILIZED.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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